

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended to more clearly recite distinguishing features of the present invention as disclosed throughout the specification and drawings. In addition, new claims 24 and 25 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention based on the disclosure in the specification and drawings, and claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-19 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US 2004/0201680 ("Gennetten et al"), claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Gennetten et al, and claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Gennetten et al and US 2002/0054224 ("Wasula et al"). These rejections, however,

are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 22, an image management system comprising a digital camera and an image recording apparatus, and a method for the image management system are provided whereby:

(i) an instruction to perform a predetermined process for first image data stored in the digital camera is issued, (ii) the predetermined process for the first image data stored in the digital camera is performed in response to the issued instruction, (iii) a request to the image recording apparatus is transmitted to perform the predetermined process for image data corresponding to the first image data in response to the issued instruction, and (iv) the predetermined process for second image data which is included in image data stored in the image recording apparatus, and which corresponds to the first image data, is performed when the transmitted request is received by the image recording apparatus. In addition, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 22, the second image data corresponding to the first image data is stored in the image recording apparatus before a time when the instruction to perform the predetermined process for the first image data is issued.

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 4 and 23, a digital camera and an

image processing method for the digital camera are provided whereby: (i) an image recording apparatus, that stores second image data corresponding to first image data stored in the digital camera, is communicated with, (ii) an instruction to perform a predetermined process for the first image data stored in the digital camera is issued, (iii) the predetermined process for the first image data stored in the digital camera is performed in response to the issued instruction, and (iv) a request is transmitted to the image recording apparatus, with which the communication is performed, to perform the predetermined process for the second image data corresponding to the first image data.

Thus, according to the claimed present invention, first image data output from the imaging unit (12) is stored in the first storage of the camera (1) and second image data corresponding to the first image data is stored in the second storage of the image recording apparatus (2).

However, when the first image data is subjected to the predetermined image processing, there occurs a problem that consistency between the first image data stored in the first storage and the second image data stored in the second storage is not maintained (that is, images in the computer and the camera are not synchronized).

With the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 4, 22 and 23, an advantageous effect of easily maintaining consistency between original images (in camera) and copy images (in computer) is produced. See the disclosure in the specification at page 21, lines 18-21.

It is respectfully submitted that Gennetten et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described features and advantageous effect of the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 4, 22, and 23.

Instead, Gennetten et al merely discloses that a digital camera is connected to a printer (or a CD writer) and that image data is transmitted from the digital camera to the printer for printing. In order to realize this printing, when a print instruction for image data stored in the digital camera is issued, the image data and a request for printing the image data are transmitted to the printer. Therefore, in Gennetten et al, the printer may store first image data transmitted from the digital camera as second image data for printing. However, it is respectfully pointed out the first image data and the second image data in Genneten et al are merely processed as a pair. That is, contrary to the claimed present invention, the first and second image data are not processed independently. Therefore, the first image data and the second image data are always the same in the Gennetten et al, and it is not necessary, in Genetten

et al, to synchronize the first image data and the second image data. Accordingly, Gennetten et al clearly does not disclose or suggest that performing processing on an image stored in the digital camera is instructed and then the same processing is also performed on a copy of the same image which is already stored in the printer (or CD writer) thereof.

And it is therefore respectfully submitted that Gennetten et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 22 whereby: (i) an instruction to perform a predetermined process for first image data stored in the digital camera is issued (instructing unit 34), (ii) the predetermined process for the first image data stored in the digital camera is performed in response to the issued instruction (first processing unit 30), (iii) a request to the image recording apparatus (2) is transmitted to perform the predetermined process for image data corresponding to the first image data in response to the issued instruction (transmitter 35), and (iv) the predetermined process for second image data which is included in image data stored in the image recording apparatus (that is, in second storage 54), and which corresponds to the first image data, is performed when the transmitted request is received by the image recording apparatus (second processing unit 51), wherein the second image data corresponding to the first image data is stored in the image

recording apparatus before a time when the instruction to perform the predetermined process for the first image data is issued.

And it is respectfully submitted that Gennetten et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 4 and 23 whereby: (i) an image recording apparatus (2), that stores second image data corresponding to first image data stored in the digital camera, is communicated with (communication controller 35), (ii) an instruction to perform a predetermined process for the first image data stored in the digital camera is issued (instructing unit 34), (iii) the predetermined process for the first image data stored in the digital camera is performed in response to the issued instruction (processing unit 30), and (iv) a request is transmitted to the image recording apparatus, with which the communication is performed, to perform the predetermined process for the second image data corresponding to the first image data (transmitter 35).

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Gennetten et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in new claim 24 whereby: a second instructing unit issues an instruction to perform the predetermined process for the first image data stored in the first storage when the image recording apparatus is connected to the digital camera, and a determination unit determines whether

the predetermined process is to be performed in a first mode or a second mode based on the instruction issued by the second instructing unit, wherein the transmitter: (i) transmits the request to the image recording apparatus when the second instructing unit issues the instruction and the determination unit determines that the predetermined process is to be performed in the first mode, and (ii) does not transmit the request to the image recording apparatus when the second instructing unit issues the instruction and when the determination unit determines that the predetermined process is to be performed in the second mode, even when the image recording apparatus is connected to the digital camera.

Wasula et al, moreover, has only been cited with respect to the subject matter of dependent claim 20.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 4, 22 and 23, and claims 2, 3, 5-15, 17-21, 24 and 25 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over the cited references, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 23 claims of which 4 were independent, and the appropriate claim fee was paid for such

claims. The application now contains 24 claims, of which 4 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$50.00 for the addition of 1 extra claim in total is submitted herewith. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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